

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

JUNE 27, 2022

Current Conditions

- January, February, and March 2022 were the driest on record dating back over 100 years, with just six inches of precipitation observed across the Sierra Nevada.
- California has entered the dry summer months with below-average reservoir storage and with the state's largest reservoir, Shasta Lake, at critically low levels. The Sierra snowpack is essentially gone, and runoff into the state's streams and reservoirs has largely peaked for the year.
- All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation. Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible.
- As of June 27, the state's voluntary household dry well reporting system received reports of 170 dry wells in the past 30 days. Most reports came from Fresno, Madera, and Tulare counties.

The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Public Health. For the latest on drought, please visit www.drought.ca.gov. For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit www.saveourwater.com.

Recent Events and State Actions

Delta watershed draft emergency regulations released (June 27): The State Water Board’s Division of Water Rights released draft updates to its emergency regulations to curtail unauthorized water diversions in the Delta watershed. Public comments will be accepted until **July 8**. The Board is tentatively planning to consider readoption of the emergency regulation on **July 20**.

New “Save Our Water” messaging shared on California highways statewide (June 24-27): Water conservation messages were viewed by millions of Californians over the June 24-27 weekend. Caltrans electronic signs were deployed on freeways sharing “Severe Drought, Limit Outdoor Watering”.



Secretary Crowfoot briefed the League of California Cities on drought conditions and conservation efforts (June 23): The League of California Cities and Rural City Information Exchange hosted a briefing featuring Secretary Wade Crowfoot where he discussed the State’s current water and drought conditions.

Save Our Water partners with state, regional, and local leaders to urge water conservation across San Diego County (June 23): At a press conference in San Diego, Secretary Wade Crowfoot, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, the San Diego County Water Authority, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Tourism Authority and Biocom California (a biotech industry association) joined forces to urge water conservation efforts across San Diego County this summer. Local leaders and regional partners shared a number of rebate and resource programs available to San Diegans to aid in reducing water. Further supporting conservation efforts, the San Diego County Water Authority’s Board of Directors unanimously adopted a resolution later that afternoon reaffirming additional water-saving measures including handing out “drought survival kits” that include hose nozzles and buckets for collecting shower water for irrigating plants.



Groundwater desalination facility dedication (June 23): The State Water Resources Control Board chair spoke at a dedication event in Menifee for Eastern Municipal Water District’s new groundwater desalination facility, which will provide additional local water supply reliability. Portions of EMWD’s service area contain groundwater that is too high in salt levels to use. EMWD’s groundwater desalination program treats the water using reverse osmosis. The Perris II Desalination Facility is EMWD’s third groundwater desalter and will provide enough water for more than 15,000 households each year.



Recent Events and State Actions

State provides \$29 million in drought relief funds for underrepresented communities, tribes

(June 22): The Department of Water Resources announced \$29 million in funding for 44 drought relief projects to improve water supply reliability, address drinking water quality, and support water conservation primarily serving underrepresented and Tribal communities. The state also awarded \$5.8 million to the Santa Clara Valley Water District's Cross Valley Pipeline Extension Project. The project will support a groundwater recharge project in the Santa Clara Subbasin which supplies drinking water to the southern San Francisco Bay Area including San Jose, and more than 2,000 water supply wells. This funding is made available through the [Urban and Multibenefit drought relief program](#) that addresses immediate human health and safety drought impacts.

Curtailment adjustments (ongoing): As drought conditions persist, the State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where worsening conditions may threaten water supplies. Curtailments remain in effect in the [Delta watershed](#), two [sub-watersheds of the Delta](#) (Mill and Deer Creeks) and the [Shasta River watershed](#). Based on current conditions and available forecasts, curtailments in the [Russian River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through June 30 and curtailments in the [Scott River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through July 1 unless conditions change. As conditions continue to dry in the coming weeks, the chance of curtailments going back into effect increases. Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change. Water right holders should closely monitor the watershed webpages and their email for curtailment updates.

Tribal / Local Actions

- **Tribal governments:** Tribal emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tule River Indian Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe.
- **Local government:** Local emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

Regional Water Authority conversation on drought (June 30): State Water Resources Control Board Chair Joaquin Esquivel is the featured speaker at a [Regional Water Authority](#) virtual event June 30 at 9 am, when he will talk about addressing the drought and making water conservation a way of life in California.

Key Data Points and Resources

- Daily Hydrological & Climate Information summary: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO>
- Statewide water conditions: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html
- Daily Reservoir Storage Summary: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>
- Water Year Forecast and Monthly Distribution: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=B120DIST>
- Monthly water supplier reports on water production and conservation: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html
- Latest groundwater conditions and information: <https://sgmatest.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://www.drought.ca.gov>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>